

**New Shoreham Town Council Work Session
Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island
February 27, 2013
5:00 p.m.**

Present: First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Kenneth C. Lacoste, Town Councilor Sean McGarry, Town Councilor Norris Pike, Town Councilor Christopher Warfel. Also present was Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. No motions were made during the work session.

Tree ordinance:

Fred Leeder and Don Littlefield of the Conservation Commission were present to answer questions about the Tree Ordinance. Discussion ensued and the Town Council requested the Conservation Commission to review the ordinance and clarify the following:

1. Who would supervise the removal of trees on Town property, the Tree Warden or the road crew? Mr. Leeder said the intention was that the Tree Warden would be a resource for the road crew.
2. How would the licenses be structured? By the year or by the job? What would the fee be?
3. Append a list of native trees, a list of recommended trees, and a list of trees to avoid planting
6. Consider making the penalty “per tree”
7. Add language preventing a conflict of interest between the Tree Warden and other professional arborists in business competition. Will the Tree Warden evolve into a paid position? Could a town-employed arborist be the tree warden?
9. The Tree Commission’s duties should include developing guidelines
 - Develop a process for planting trees on public land. Include a process for neighbors to have a say if they wish but the good of the larger public should also be considered, trees are a public resource. Tree selection should plan for future growth (encroachment on surrounding properties or into views)
 - Develop a process for removing trees on public lands. Should the impact on surrounding properties (viewshed) be a factor? The good of the larger public should be considered, trees are a public resource. Include guidelines for the conservation of valuable wood and the disposition or removal of chippings and cord wood

The Conservation Commission will meet March 12, 2013. The Town Council asks that they add snow fencing memorandum to their agenda.

International Green Construction Code

Building Official Marc Tillson spoke about the International Green Construction Code, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building standards, and the RI Green building code. He distributed the state’s green building code which adopted region-appropriate standards from the national program’s menu of choices. In Rhode Island, publicly funded commercial, public and large residential developments such as apartment buildings and municipal buildings must meet the green standards. At this time it does not apply to single family dwellings. A project must meet some of the standards to be certified as green. There are different levels of certification (silver, gold, platinum). The Town cannot adopt a building ordinance that is more strict than the state’s. There was discussion regarding upcoming repairs and planned renovations to the beach pavilion.

At 6:30 a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pike and seconded by Mr. Warfel.

Ayes: 5 (Gaffett, Lacoste, McGarry, Pike, Warfel) Nays: 0

Minutes approved: March 6, 2013

Fiona Fitzpatrick
Town Clerk